

Appl. No.: 09/818,480
Amdt. Dated April 12, 2004
Reply to Office Action dated January 27, 2004

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A method that enables a recipient to inform a carrier of the manner in which the recipient wants some or all of their mail that is placed in trays or tubs by the sender and is transported in trays or tubs delivered, said method comprises the steps of:

scanning the name and physical address of the recipient and the sender of the mail after the mail has been sealed;

capturing by the sender the name and physical address of the recipient and the sender in the form of an image;

transmitting the image to a data center where the image is processed by translating the image consisting of text and graphics to selected alphanumerics;

translating the name and physical address of the recipient into an e-mail address;

notifying the recipient of the [availability] expected delivery of the sealed mail and indicating the selected alphanumerics of the translated image;

depositing with the carrier the sealed mail containing the recipient's name and physical address and the sender's name and address;

notifying a data center by the recipient ~~to the data center~~ of the manner in which the recipient wants some or all of their mail delivered;

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notifying by the data center the carrier of the manner in which the recipient wants the mail delivered; and

delivering by the carrier mail to the recipient in the manner specified by the recipient to the carrier.

2. (original) The method claimed in claim 1, wherein the recipient is notified of the estimated time in which the mail is going to be delivered.

3. (original) The method claimed in claim 1, wherein the recipient notifies the carrier to deliver the mail to a specified name and address.

4. (original) The method claimed in claim 1, wherein the recipient notifies the carrier to return the mail to the sender.

5. (original) The method claimed in claim 1, wherein the recipient notifies the carrier to open the mail.

6. (original) The method claimed in claim 4, further including the steps of:
informing the carrier to e-mail the contents of the mailpiece to the recipient; and
mailing by e-mail the contents of the mailpiece to the recipient.

7. (original) The method claimed in claim 4, further including the steps of:

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informing the carrier to e-mail the contents of the mailpiece to one or more specified e-mail addresses; and

mailing by e-mail the contents of the mailpiece to the specified e-mail addresses.

8. (original) The method claimed in claim 4, further including the steps of:

informing the carrier to send by facsimile the contents of the mailpiece to the recipient; and

mailing by facsimile the contents of the mailpiece to the recipient.

9. (original) The method claimed in claim 4, further including the steps of:

informing the carrier to facsimile the contents of the mailpiece to one or more specified facsimile numbers; and

sending by facsimile the contents of the mailpiece to the specified facsimile numbers.

10. (original) The method claimed in claim 1, wherein the recipient notifies the carrier to deliver the mail to the recipient at a different address.

11. (original) The method claimed in claim 1, wherein the recipient notifies the carrier to deliver the mail to the recipient by a slower delivery method than that paid for by the sender.

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12. (original) The method claimed in claim 1, wherein the recipient notifies the carrier to deliver the mail to the recipient by a faster delivery method than that paid for by the sender.

13. (original) The method claimed in claim 1, further including the step of:
charging the recipient for receiving notification of the availability of the deposited mail.

14. (original) The method claimed in claim 1, further including the step of:
charging the recipient for delivering mail to the recipient in the manner specified by the recipient to the carrier.

15. (original) The method claimed in claim 1, further including the step of:
charging the recipient for receiving notification of the availability of the deposited mail; and
charging the recipient for delivering mail to the recipient in the manner specified by the recipient to the carrier.

16. (original) The method claimed in claim 1, further including the step of:
informing the sender of the delivery of the mail.

17. (original) The method claimed in claim 1, wherein the recipient notifies the carrier to hold the mail for a specified period of time.

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18. (original) The method claimed in claim 1, wherein the recipient notifies the carrier to destroy the mail.

19. (original) The method claimed in claim 1, wherein the recipient notifies the carrier to recycle the material comprising the mail.

20. (original) The method claimed in claim 1, wherein the recipient is notified via e-mail of the availability of the deposited mail.

21. (original) The method claimed in claim 1, wherein the recipient is notified via telephone of the availability of the deposited mail.

22. (original) The method claimed in claim 1, wherein the recipient is notified via facsimile of the availability of the deposited mail.

23. (original) The method claimed in claim 1, wherein the recipient is notified via television of the availability of the deposited mail.

24. (Previously presented) The method claimed in claim 1, wherein the carrier is notified via e-mail of the manner in which the recipient wants the mail delivered.

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25. (Previously presented) The method claimed in claim 1, wherein the carrier is notified via facsimile of the manner in which the recipient wants the mail delivered.

26. (Previously presented) The method claimed in claim 1, wherein the carrier is notified via telephone of the manner in which the recipient wants the mail delivered.

27. (Previously presented) The method claimed in claim 1, wherein the recipient notifies a data center who notifies the carrier of the manner in which the recipient wants the mail delivered.

28. (original) The method claimed in claim 1, wherein the mail deposited with the carrier contains a graphic.

29. (original) The method claimed in claim 28, wherein the graphic is a stamp.

30. (original) The method claimed in claim 28, wherein the graphic is a postal indicia.

31. (original) The method claimed in claim 28, wherein the graphic is a permit.

32. (original) The method claimed in claim 28, wherein the graphic is carrier symbology.

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33. (original) The method claimed in claim 28, wherein the graphic is captured and translated.

34. (original) The method claimed in claim 33, wherein the graphic is stored.